

A N

OLD FOX

TARR'D AND FEATHERED.

OCCASIONED BY WHAT IS CALLED

MR. JOHN WESLEY'S *Calm Address to our
American Colonies.*

"In Politics I dabble too,
Erave Jack of all trades I!"

Caciliare, Fur es.

By an HANOVERIAN.



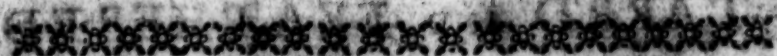
A Calm Address to our American Colonies.

L O N D O N :

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OLD FOX



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following sheet does not enter, seriously and argumentatively, into the merits of either side of the dispute now depending between England and America. This has, already, been done, by others;* and, probably, will be, by more. The intention of these pages is, 1. To shew Mr Wesley's honesty, as a PLAGIARIST: and, 2. to raise a little skin, by giving the fox a gentle flogging, as a TURN-COAT.



* See a GRAVE ANSWER, to Mr Wesley's CALM ADDRESS.



Printed for J. O. K. J. at the ...
...
...

[Signature]

AN
OLD FOX, &c.

SECTION I.

"Another face of things was seen,

"And I became a Tory."

WHEREUNTO shall I liken Mr. John Wesley? and
with what shall I compare him?

I will liken him unto a low and puny TANKARD in divi-
nity, which proudly seeks to disembowel an high and migh-
ty WHALE in politics.

For it came to pass, some months since, that Doctor Sa-
muel Johnson, set forth an EIGHTEEN-PENNY pamphlet, en-
titled, *Taxation no Tyranny*,

And, some days ago, a methodist weather-cock saluted
the public with a TWO-PENNY paper (extracted by whole
paragraphs together from the aforesaid doctor), intitled,
A Calm Address to our American colonies. The occasion
whereof was this:

There dwelleth, about 99 miles, one furlong, and thir-
teen inches, from a place called the foundery, in Moor-
fields (next door to a noted mad-house,) a priest, named,
Vulpo.

This priest is a PERFECT man, and an upright; hating
forgery, adultery, and covetousness.

Now

Now, he happened to buy Dr Johnson's pamphlet above-mentioned : and, upon reading thereof, he thus mused within himself.

" This tract, called, *Taxation no Tyranny*, cost me one shilling and Six-pence.

" What a man buys and pays for, is certainly his own.

" Therefore, this tract is no longer its *author's*, but *mine*.

" Consequently, I shall do no evil, if I get the substance of it, and republish it under my own name.

" There is an old Greek proverb, which saith *Γινώσκωντας, know thy opportunity*, and seize it. There is also a latin poet, who saith, *Malè dum recitas, incipit esse tuum*.

" No tense like the present. Doctor Johnson has been for several weeks, absent from the kingdom, on a tour to *Paris*. Therefore, 'tis now or never. Like a mouse that has robbed a pantry, I'll venture forth, with my stolen morsel, while the cat's out of the way.

" Now, it is not that I care for government, any more than Judas cared for the poor : but I have long wished to be taken notice of, at court ; and this pilfering may procure me some preferment in the church.

" I once* begg'd and pray'd a foreign vagrant (who stiled himself *Erasmus*, Bishop of *Arcadia*) to give ME episcopal consecration, that I might be a bishop at large, and have it in my power to ordain my ragged regiment of lay-preachers.

" Notwithstanding; tho' I gave the man many fair speeches, he would not hearken to my voice.

" But who knows, whether in the borrowed † plumes of Dr Johnson, I may not, perchance, obtain a pension, if not-

* See some account of this curious transaction in Mr Toplady's letter to Mr John Wesley.

† A fable relates, that a certain vain jaw-daw picked up all the peacock's feathers he could meet with, and stuck them among his own; in hope, that the elegant spoils might pass for the native productions of his back. The cheat was soon discovered: and the enraged birds not only stripped him of his artificial decorations, but made him feel the vengeance of their bills beside.

On this fable Dr Croxall very properly remarks, that for a man to be barely pleased with appearing above what he really is, may justly render himself contemptible in the eyes of his equals. But if, to enable him

not slip into an English cathedral; or (at least) to be appointed to the first American bishoprick?

"Alas! Alas! a sudden thrill goes through me, and my cogitations are perplexed within me! For, before I can be made a * bishop, my infamous plagiarism may be found out.

"However, worst come to worst, what if it be? 'tis not the first time that my old Foxship has been started, and my impositions have been detected.

"Many writers have lustily plundered the works of other men: but I am resolved to out-plunder, and to out-blunder, them all."

him to do this with a better grace, he has feathered his nest with his neighbour's goods; he has nothing to expect, when found out, but to be *stript* of his plunder, and used like a ——— into the bargain."

* In the address to the colonies, Mr. Wesley expresses himself thus: "I gain nothing, either by the government, or by the Americans; and *PROBABLY never shall*." p. 12. Is not this something like hanging out a sign-post to invite custom? or, *simavis*, putting up a bill importing lodgings to let? or, setting himself up to auction, saying, "This party, whether ministerial or American, that bids *most* for me, shall have me? At least, is there not, in the above declaration, a loop hole of reserve? a back door to creep out at?—Not to notice, that, in affirming he "*gains nothing* by the government," he is very *ungrateful*, and advances a known *untruth*. He "*gains*" protection, at least, and toleration, from "*government*:" and instead of calling this, *nothing*; has he the face to call it "*nothing*?" I should be glad to know what his gratitude would term *something*?—Moreover, time was, when Mr. Wesley *gained*, even from American bounty and civility. Has he forgot his residence at Savannah, and some certain incidents therewith connected.

SECT.

SECTION II.

AND it came to pass, while the priest thus communed with his own heart, that a very aged man, in black cloathing, rendered himself visible, and said:

"Fear not my son, to do the thing which thy soul lusteth after:

"For much riches, and renown, and comfort, shall it add unto thee.

"Nothing venture, nothing have. —Snatch the precious moment. Distill the doctors pamphlet. And, when thou hast extracted the substance thereof, cork it up, for sale in two-penny phials.

"Yet a little while, —and revolving winds will cast the doctor back to his native shore.

"Imitate, therefore, certain worthy sons of mine (vulgarly called, house breakers): who are never better pleased, than with committing an unplested burglary, —when a family is from home."

And therewith the black veteran gave the priest a tweak by the elbow: who shook his locks, and taking his quill in hand, enter'd immediately on the business of distillation.

How faithfull how dexterously how judiciously, and how plentifully, he executed, his task: will appear from the following synopsis: wherein wherein the *very words* of Dr Johnson are given, on one side; and the *very words* of the foundery priest on the other.

Doctor

"It may be alledged, that, in Mr. Wesley's plentiful 'cribbings and carvings, from doctor Johnson, he has rather *borrowed* than *stolen*, the doctors paragraphs. To which I answer: that, if he has *borrowed* them, he is one of those, concerning whom David observes, *The UN-GOODLY borroweth and payeth not again*. For Mr Wesley is so far from acknowledging himself a debtor to Dr Johnson, that he has never, so much as once, from the beginning of his two-penny tract to the end, mentioned the doctor's name, or made any reference to the doctor's pamphlet; though the pamphlet is the *very hole of the pit*, from which Mr Wesley has dug and fetch'd up his own.

DOCTOR JOHNSON.

1. "An English colony is a number of persons, to whom the king grants a charter, permitting them to settle in some distant country."

[Tax. no Tyr. p. 25.]

2. "And enabling them to constitute a corporation, enjoying such powers as the charter grants, to be administered in such forms as the charter prescribes."

Ibid.

3. "As a corporation, they make laws for themselves: but as a corporation subsisting by a grant from an higher authority, to the controul of that authority they continue subject."

Ibid.

4. "The parliament of England has a right to bind them (the Americans) by statutes,—and has therefore a legal and constitutional power of laying upon them any tax or impost,—for the defence of America, for the purpose of raising a revenue, or for any other end beneficial to the empire."

P. 30

5. "It is, say the American advocates, the natural distinction of a freeman, and the legal distinction of an Englishman,—that nothing can be taken from him, but by his own consent. This consent is given, for every man, by his representative in parliament."

P. 31

6. "Whatever is true of taxation, is true of every other law."

P. 32.

7. "He that denies the English parliament the right of taxation, denies it likewise the right of making any other laws, civil or criminal. Yet this power over the colonies was never yet disputed by themselves. They have always admitted statutes for the punishment of offences, and, or the redress or prevention of inconveniencies."

P. 32. 33.

WILEY.

1. "An English colony is a number of persons, to whom the king grants a charter, permitting them to settle in some far country."

[Ad. to the Amer. col. p. 3]

2. "As a corporation enjoying such power as the charter grants, to be administered in such a manner as the charter prescribes."

P. 4.

3. "As a corporation they make laws for themselves. but as a corporation subsisting by a grant from an higher authority, to the controul of that authority they *will* continue subject."

Ibid.

4. "The Supreme power in England has a legal right of laying any tax upon them, for any end, beneficial to the whole empire."

Ibid.

5. "But you object, It is the privilege of a freeman and an Englishman, to be taxed by his own consent. And this consent is given for every man by his representative in parliament."

Ibid.

6. "Whatever holds with regard to taxation, holds with regard to all other laws."

P. 5.

7. "He who denies the English parliament the power of taxation, denies it the right of making any laws at all. But this power over the colonies you have never disputed. You have always admitted statutes, for the punishment of offences, and for the preventing or redressing of inconveniencies."

Ibid.

6. "Th

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8. "The reception of any law draws after it, by a chain which cannot be broken, the necessity of submitting to taxation." P. 32.

9. "That a freeman is governed by himself, or by laws to which he has consented; — every man — feels it to be false." *Ibid.*

10. "In wide extended dominions, — a very small part of the people are either primarily or secondarily consulted in legislation." *Ibid.*

11. "The business of the public must be done by delegation. The choice of delegates is made by a select number. And those who are not electors stand idle and helpless spectators." P. 43, 44.

12. "Of electors, the hap is but little better. — Where the numbers approach to equality, almost half must be governed, not only without, but against, their choice." P. 34.

13. "How any man have consented to institutions established in distant ages, it will be difficult to explain. — The consent of individuals is merely passive. — As all are born the subjects of some state or other, we may be said to have been all consenting to some system of government. Other consent, than this, the condition of civil life does not allow." *Ibid.*

14. "The Americans are telling one another, — that they are entitled to life, liberty, and property, and that they have never ceded, to any sovereign power what ever, a right to dispose of either, without their consent." P. 35.

15. "While they speak as the naked sons of nature, they claim but what is claimed by other men." *Ibid.*

WALKER.

8. "The reception of any law draws after it, by a chain which cannot be broken, the necessity of admitting taxation." *Ibid.*

9. "That every freeman is governed by laws to which he has consented, — is absolutely false." *Ibid.*

10. "In wide extended dominions, a very small part of the people are concerned in making laws." *Ibid.*

11. "All public business must be done by delegation. The delegates are chosen by a select number. And those that are not electors, — stand by, idle and helpless spectators." P. 5, 6.

12. "The case of electors themselves is little better. When they are near equally divided, almost half of them must be governed, not only without, but even against their own consent." P. 6.

13. "How has any man consented to those laws, which were made before he was born? Our consent to these — is purely passive. And, in every place, as all men are born the subjects of some state or other, so they are born, passively, as it were, consenting to the laws of that state. Other than this kind of consent, the condition of civil life does not allow." *Ibid.*

14. "But you say, you are entitled to life, liberty and property, by nature; and that you have never ceded, to any sovereign power, the right to dispose of these without your consent." *Ibid.*

15. "While you speak as the naked sons of nature, this is certainly true." *Ibid.*

P. 7.
DOCTOR

16. "Their next resolution declares, that their ancestors, who first settled the colonies, were, at the time of their emigration from the mother country, entitled to all the rights, liberties, and immunities of free and natural born subjects within the realm of England. This likewise is true."

17. "But, when this is granted, their boast of original right is at an end. They are no longer in a state of nature. These lords of themselves—these demi-gods of independence, sink down to colonists, governed by a charter." *Ibid.*

18. "If their ancestors were subjects, they acknowledged a sovereign. If they had a right to English privileges, they were accountable to English laws; and had ceded to the king and parliament—the power of DISPOSING WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT, of their LIVES, LIBERTIES, and PROPERTIES."

19. "It is required of them, to prove, that the parliament ever ceded to them a dispensation from that obedience, which they owe as natural born subjects; or any degree of independence and immunity not enjoyed by other Englishmen." *Ibid.*

20. "They say, that by such emigration, they by no means forfeited—any of those rights: that they were, and their descendants now are, entitled to the exercise and enjoyment of all such of them, as their local and other circumstances enable them to exercise and enjoy." *Ibid.*

21. "That they, who form a settlement by a lawful charter, having committed no crime, forfeit no privileges, will be readily confessed. But what they do not for-

26. "But you presently declare. Our ancestors, at the time they settled these colonies, were entitled to all the rights of natural born subjects, within the realm of England. This likewise is true." *Ibid.*

27. "But, when this is granted, the boast of original rights is at an end. You are no longer in a state of nature, but sink down to colonists governed by a charter." *Ibid.*

18. "If your ancestors were subjects, they acknowledged a sovereign. If they had a right to English privileges, they were accountable to English laws; and had ceded to the king and parliament—the power of DISPOSING WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT, of both their LIVES, LIBERTIES, and PROPERTIES." *Ibid.*

19. "Did the parliament cede to them a dispensation from the obedience, which they owe as natural subjects? or any degree of independence, not enjoyed by other Englishmen?" *Ibid.*

20. "They did not indeed, as you observe, by emigration, forfeit any of those privileges: but they were, and their descendants now are, entitled to all such as their circumstances will enable them to enjoy." *Ibid.*

21. "That they, who form a colony by a lawful charter, forfeit no privilege thereby, is certain. But what they do not forfeit by any judicial sentence, they may

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lost by any judicial sentence, they lose by natural effects." *Ibid.*

22. "He, who goes voluntarily to America, cannot complain of losing what he leaves in Europe. He, perhaps, had a right to vote for a knight or burghess. By crossing the Atlantic, he has not mutilated his right; for he has made its exertion no longer possible. He has reduced himself from a voter, to one of the innumerable multitude that have no vote." *Ibid.*

23. "As the English colonists are not represented in the British parliament, they are entitled to a free power of legislation. For they inherit all the rights which their ancestors had, of enjoying all the privileges of Englishmen. That they inherit the rights of their ancestors, is allowed: but they can inherit no more." *Ibid.*

24. "Their ancestors left a country, where the representatives of the people were elected by men particularly qualified: and where those, who wanted that qualification, were bound by the decisions of men whom they had not deputed." *Ibid.*

25. "The colonists are the descendants of men, who either had no votes in elections; or who voluntarily resigned them, for something in their opinion of more estimation. They have, therefore, exactly what their ancestors left of men who either had no votes; or resigned them by emigration. You have, therefore, exactly what your ancestors left you: not a vote in making laws, nor in choosing legislators; but the happiness of being free." *Ibid.*

* The word not, here seems to have crept in, through a mistake of the printer. The drift of the doctor's arguing is, to prove, that emigration does, nullify those rights which the emigrant previously enjoyed in his own country. Mr Wesley, however, swallows the pamphlet by wholesale, errors and all rough and smooth as it runs; just as a man takes his wife, for better for worse.

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them: not a vote in making laws, or in constituting legislators; but the happiness of being protected by law, and the duty of obeying it."

25. "What their ancestors did not carry with them, neither they nor their descendants have since acquired. They have not, by abandoning their part in one legislature, obtained the power of constituting another: — any more than the multitudes, who are now debarred from voting, have a right to erect a separate parliament for themselves." *Ibid.* P. 41, 42.

27. "His majesty's colonies are entitled to all the privileges and immunities granted and confirmed to them by royal Charters, or secured to them by their several codes of provincial laws. The first clause — will be readily admitted. To all the privileges, which a charter can convey, they are by a royal charter evidently entitled. The second clause is of greater difficulty."

P. 41, 42.

28. "Provincial laws may grant, to certain individuals of the province, the enjoyment of gainful, or immunity from onerous officers. But no province can confer provincial privileges on itself."

P. 43

29. "They may have a right to all which the king has given them: but it is a conceit of the other hemisphere, that men have a right to all which they have given to themselves." *Ibid.*

30. "A corporation — can no more extend it's own immunities than a man can, by his own choice, assume the dignities or titles." *Ibid.*

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ing protected by laws, and the duty of obeying them." — P. 9.

26. "What your ancestors did not bring with them, neither they nor their descendants have acquired, they have not, by abandoning their right in one legislature, acquired a right to constitute another, any more than the multitudes in England, who have no vote, have a right to erect a parliament for themselves." *Ibid.*

27. "However, the colonies have a right to all the privileges granted to them by the royal charters, or secured to them by provincial laws. The first clause is allowed: They have certainly a right to all the privileges granted them by the royal charters. But, as to the second there is a doubt." P. 9, 10.

28. "Provincial laws may grant privileges to individuals of the province: but, surely, no province can confer provincial privileges on itself." P. 10.

29. "They have a right to all which the king has given them: but not to all which they have given themselves." *Ibid.*

30. "A corporation can no more assume to itself, privileges which it had not before; than a man, by his own act and deed, assume titles of dignities." *Ibid.*

Dr.

31. "The legislature of a colony
— is only the vestry of a
large parish, which may lay a cess
on the inhabitants, — but
must modify it's particular regula-
tions, by the general law; and,
whatever may be its internal ex-
pences, is still liable to taxes laid
by superior authority." p. 44.

31. "The legislature of a colony
may be compared to the vestry
of a large parish, which may lay a
cess on its inhabitants, but still re-
gulated by the law: and whatever
be its internal expences, is still li-
able to taxes laid by superior au-
thority." Ibid.

THUS, gentle reader, it appears, that the Foundery
Wasp has made free with the Johnsonian hive. No fewer
than *thirty-one* borrowed paragraphs, in the course of only
ten pages! In fact, there are more of these pilfered goods
flowed in the narrow compass of those five leaves. But the
adduced specimens may suffice to convince thee, with what
an *unsparing* hand the master of arts has fleeced the doctor
of laws.

But are Dr. Johnson's arguments and phraseology *there-
fore* the legitimate property of John Wesley, *because* the
latter puffs them off as his own? By no means. We might
as well affirm, that Mr Wesley's body natural is *therefore*
the lawful property of a leech, *because* the latter may have
thought fit to pay his compliments to the veins of the for-
mer.

SECTION III.

IT is not the intention of this tract, to canvass the merits
of Dr Johnson's reasonings: but merely shew that the
part of what Mr Wesley *most impudently* and *most antruly*
calls his own address to the Americans; is, both as to
matter and expression, a bundle of Lilliputian shafts pick-
ed and *stolen* out of Dr. Johnson's pin-cushion.

If Mr Wesley had the least spark of shame remaining,
the simple detection of such enormous literary theft would
be more terrible to his feelings, than an English *pumping*
or an American *tarring and feathering*.

I can say *in earnest*; what this unblushing priest lately declared concerning himself: viz. "I am no politician, politics lye quite out of my province." "It is not for me to enter deeply, much less with acrimony, into those public contests which now carry so formidable an aspect on the best interests of the English empire. My department and inclination lead me ardently to pray, in humble and paeific obscurity, for the safety and prosperity of my nation, church, and king. But the *interested*, the *inconsistent*, the *shameless*, conduct of Mr Wesley; compels me to put the two following queries to his conscience, if any thing like conscience has fallen to his share.

I.

Did you not, within this twelvemonth, openly declare, in the pulpit, at Bristol, that, in your opinion and to use your own canting words, "*America is the favourite land of the Lord?*" Adding, "*Woe be to that man, either in England or out of it, that dares to lift up a finger against America!*" I only ask, how does this (be it right or be it wrong) comport with the tenor of that sound, which you now echo from Dr. Johnson's drum?

II.

Did you not in the year 1770, thus express yourself (whether justly or properly, I have no design to enquire)? "*I do not defend the measures, which have been taken with regard to America. I doubt, whether any man can defend them, either on the foot of law, equity, or prudence.*"—Probably, the Weathercock is not, even yet, completely *ruined*. It may still vary with the wind. To what point of the compass will it veer next? Certainly not to a new one; for it has, again and again turned to *all* the thirty-two. Go on, sir, to *prove all things*: but, be sure that you

* Wesley's *Free thoughts on the state of public affairs*. p. 3. printed in 1770. This gentleman laments (*Ibid.* p. 4.), that "every cobbler, tinker, porter, and hackney coachman," can dabble in politics. And yet the lamenter himself actually employs cobbles &c. to *PREACH* what he calls the gospel!

† These are Mr Wesley's very words, in his *Free Thoughts on the State*. &c. p. 14.

do not forfeit your charter, and fully the glory of your past excentricitys, by *holding fast, to any thing that is good.* Keep up to your old character:

"Stiff in opinion, mostly in the wrong,

"Be every thing by starts; and nothing long."

The fly is *now* perched, with much solemnity on Dr Johnson's wheel. But who can tell, what a moment may bring forth? The quondam † admirer of Junius may, possibly, in the twinkling of an eye, commence the panegyrist of an English Cromwell, or of a Scotch Macbeth.

This is the Mr Wesley, who not long ago had the *modesty* to tell the world that his principles have been the *same*, "For *eight* and *twenty* years." Instead of *principles*, in the plural, he should have said *principle* in the singular. For, I grant, there is a *principle*, by which he has uniformly abode: viz. to *change* and *shift about*, like the miserrand hand of a clock. Nor does he bid fair ever to stand at a point, till all the vital weights are quite run down, and the pendulum ceases to play.

Little more than two centuries ago, a famous temporising priest, who had turned with every tide; who was an *half* protestant in the close of Henry VIII's reign, an *whole* protestant in the reign of Edward VI, a *good catholic* in the reign of Mary, and a *protestant* again in the reign of Elizabeth; returned the following answer to a friend, who charged him with religious and political unsteadiness, and with having either *no* conscience at all, or at least a very *convenient* conscience, made of stretching leather, equally capable of shrinking and dilating, as whim or interest might require.

"You are much mistaken," said the pious divine: I am
"by no means that *changeable* person, you take me for.
"No man in the world was ever more *steady* to his principle, or acted a more *consistent* part. When I was first presented to the Vicarage of BRAY, I resolved to hold it
"as long as I breathed. I have acted accordingly. Vicar of *Bray* I was. Vicar of *Bray* I am. And vicar of
"Bray I will be, to the end of the chapter." By

† See Mr Wesley's *Treatise*, already referred to; viz. *Free Thoughts*, &c. p. 4.

By way of winding up the whole matter, I'll take my present leave of Mr. Wesley, with submitting to the reader a very notable specimen of father John's wretched but (in him) not astonishing, *inconsistency*.

"Your successors—had ceded, to the king and parliament, the power of disposing, without their consent, of both their LIVES, liberties, and properties."

Wesley's Calm Address to the Americans,

p. 7.

"No man can dispose of another's life, but by his own consent. I add, *no*, *nor* with his consent. For no man has a right to dispose of his own life. Now it is an INDISPUTABLE truth, *Nihil dat quod non habet*: none gives what he has not. It plainly follows, that no man can give to another, a right, which he never had himself,—[viz.] the power of the sword, any such power as implies a right to take away life."

Wesley's Thoughts on the Origin of Power, p. 11. Printed A.D.

1775.

How delightfully do those two opposite paragraphs coalesce and hang together! but what are contradictions, to John Wesley? I congratulate administration, on their acquisition of so *wise*, so *knowing*, so *honest*, so *uniform*, so *dis-interested*, so *steady*, and so *respectable* a politician. A politician, who, in some companies, affirm, that his sudden approbation of government-measures was occasioned by his perusal of Dr Johnson's 'Taxation no Tyranny:' and, without a blush, avers, in other companies, that his said political conversion was brought about by virtue of a long conversation with two members of parliament. Pity it is, that great truth-tellers, like great wits, should be so famous for short memories!

LONDON, Oct. 19, 1775.

P O S T.

POST OFFICE

Should Dr. Johnson's echo be allowed to be heard in the
larded with rory politics, in *British-Greek* church;
we shall see the title of a good old song realized afresh:
And the charity girls may inquire, "What's the tune of
the *British-Greek*?"

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